(b) if so, the details thereof including the location; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government sanction for setting up a Naval Academy at Ezhimala, District Kannur in Kerala at the estimated cost of Rs. 166.94 crores was accorded in 1995 for training of 600 Cadets for a B.Sc (Special) Course. Construction work on the Academy is in progress.

(c) The project is likely to be completed by mid 2006.

Welfare measures for Defence personnel

1822. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army is contemplating to set up Medical and Dental Colleges and other professional institutes for Army Personnel and their families;

(b) if so, the details of their locations; and

(c) the other welfare measures taken for Defence Personnel and their families?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Army Welfare Education Society, a registered body under the Registration of Societies Act, has set up some professional institutes in the field of Dentistry, Engineering, Law, Management, Hotel Management and Education for wards/war widows of army personnel.

(b) The details of Dental College and other professional Institutes run under aegis of AWES are as under:

(i) Army College of Dental Sciences (ACDS)-Secunderabad.

(ii). National Institute of Management (NIM) Kolkata.

(iii) Faculty of Management Studies (FOMS) Jabalpur.

(iv) Army Institute of Law (AIL) Mohali.

(v) Army Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (AIHM&CT) Bangalore.

(vi) Army Centre Education (ACE) Panchmarhi.

(vii) Army Institute of Technology (AIT) Pune.

(viii) Army Institute of Education (AIE) Delhi.

(c) As per Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Welfare Measures for Defence Personnel and their Families

Medical

There is a good network of hospitals for the serving personnel. All military hospitals attend to day to day medical requirements of servicemen and their families.

Specialized Medical Treatment

(a) Research and Referral Hospital: For serving soldiers requiring specialized medical treatment, a super specialist hospital is available at New Delhi.

(b) Paraplegis Rehabilitation Centres (PRCS): Two PRCs, At Kirkee and Mohali are available for rehabilitation of disabled soldiers.

(c) St. Dunstan's After Care Organisation: This organisation provides training to the visually handicapped servicemen at the national Institute for visually handicapped at Dehradun.

(d) Artificial Limb Centre (ALC): One ALC is available at Pune for providing of artificial limbs to disabled soldiers.

2. Now, a medical scheme called Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has been approved, which caters for comprehensive medical cover to the ex-servicemen in receipt of any kind of pension including disability pension and family pensioners, spouse as also

legitimate children and wholly dependent parents. The scheme envisages to establish 104 augmented medical inspection rooms at military stations and 123 new poly clinics at non military stations. The scheme contributory in nature has commenced *w.e.f.* 1st April 2003 and would be fully implemented by March 2008.

3. For the time being till ECHS becomes operational, service hospitals would continue with entitled treatment and AGI's extended Medical Benefit Scheme (MBS) and financial assistance for AG's Welfare Fund and KSB for medical treatment would also continue.

Financial Assistance

4. Financial assistance is granted to the ex-servicemen, widows and their dependent family members from Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund (RMDF) and AG's Welfare Fund for assistance to old, infirm, for marriage of daughters, repair of houses, medical treatment etc.

Education

5. In order to provide quality education to the children of army personnel posted deployed in far flung areas, 116 army schools have been established. Besides, the Air Force have established 148 schools in most of the units to provide educational facilities to the children of air force personnel and the Navy has established 9 Naval Public Schools. 7 schools have been established by Air Force Wives Welfare Association for mentally and physically challenged children.

Educational concessions

6. Children of defence personnel killed or permanently disabled in action who are studying in institutions under the department of Education are granted complete exemption from tuition fee and other fee levied by the institution.

7. Educational scholarships are awarded by the Army, the Navy and the Air Force to the wards of serving soldiers, based on both merit and means.

8. 28 seats in MBBS, 1 seat in BDS, 2 seats in Engineering in Annamalai University and 2 seats each in the 7 IITs (subject to qualifying

the Joint Entrance Examination) are available for the wards of servicemen and ex-servicemen.

Vocational Training

9. The three service Headquarters make arrangement for Vocational Training to their respective servicemen at various civil institutions, prior to their retirement, for their post retirement settlement.

Housing

10. Army Welfare Housing Organisation provides limited no. of houses to servicemen and ex-servicemen in select stations at reasonable costs. Similar housing facilities are provided by Air Force Naval Housing Board to Air Force and Naval personnel.

11. Various State Governments have made reservations for serving/ retired defence personnel/dependents in allotment of house sites/houses.

12. 37 War Memorial Hostels have been constructed to provide accommodation to wards of war bereaved and disabled personnel to enable them to pursue their studies.

Transit Facilities

13. Over 252 Sainik Aram Grahs have been established at many stations where servicemen have to transit while being on duty or proceeding to/returning from leave. Besides, 15 holiday homes have also been established at select stations.

14. Journey by air is provided to servicemen and their families while travelling on duty or leave to and from Leh sector in J&K.

15. 75% concession in rail fare and air fare in Indian Airlines domestic flights is provided to recipients of certain gallantry award winners and to widows of posthumous winners of the gallantry awards along with a companion.

Canteen Facilities

16. Items of daily needs are provided at concessional rates to servicemen and their families through the Canteen Stores Department and the Unit Run Canteens.

Recreational facilities

17. Majority of military stations have been equipped with Auditoriums (Indoor/Outdoor) for the recreation of servicemen and their families. Adequate facilities in terms of sports have also been provided in all military stations for servicemen and their families.

Defence Planning Board

1823. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set up Defence Planning Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be the main functions of the Board and by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Outstanding Bills against Andhra Pradesh Government for use of IAF Aircraft

1824. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Headquarters had sent airlift bills to the tune of Rs. 3 crores to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for aircraft used during floods in the State in August, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested for waiver of above bills in view of drought conditions prevailing in the State; and

(c) if so, the details of the action by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is being examined in the Ministry of Defence.